



CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services

Michael G. Oxley, Chairman

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Peggy Peterson at 226-0471

Thursday, October 11, 2001

Financial Services Panel Approves Bill to Enhance SEC Emergency Authority

This morning, the House Financial Services Committee, chaired by Rep. Michael G. Oxley (OH), unanimously approved a bill to give the Securities and Exchange Commission additional authority and flexibility to respond to emergency situations such as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Oxley said, "Congress is seeking to be fully responsive to the needs of the Commission in its efforts to help the markets fully function in the event of emergency. I hope the Senate will address this measure quickly, so that it may become law before the end of this session."

The Emergency Securities Response Act would allow the Commission to extend emergency orders for up to 30 business days, and in some cases for up to 90 calendar days. Currently, SEC emergency orders are limited to 10 business days.

The bill, H.R. 3060, would also widen the Commission's emergency relief scope to include all federal securities laws. The SEC's ability to grant emergency relief is now limited to one section of securities law. In seeking broader authority the Chairman of the SEC, Harvey L. Pitt, cited a need to provide for increased flexibility to provide appropriate relief in times of emergency.

The bill is cosponsored by Capital Markets Subcommittee Chairman Richard H. Baker (LA), the Committee's ranking member John J. LaFalce, and the ranking member of the Capital Markets Subcommittee, Paul E. Kanjorski (PA).

###